



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
420 West State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288
815-987-5800

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHET EPPERSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

ARREST RELEASE

DATE & TIME **09/16/11 3:30 PM**

Bureau: **Investigative Services Bureau**

Authorized Supervisor: **Lt. Marc Welsh**

Phone: **815/967-6976**

Incident: **Armed Robbery Investigations/Arrests**

MESSAGE

On Thursday, 09/15/11, shortly after 8:30 p.m. members of the Rockford Police Department responded to the **Dollar Tree**, 3818 W. Riverside Blvd., in reference to an Armed Robbery incident. When they arrived, officers learned that three black male suspects had entered the business, one armed with a handgun, and demanded money from an employee. The suspects then fled the scene after obtaining an undisclosed amount of money.

At about 8:50 p.m. three similarly described suspects attempted to rob **Anna's Pizza**, at 2216 N. Main St. There was also an attempted Armed Robbery to a pizza delivery person for **Anna's Pizza** in the parking lot of the business.

Shortly after that, an Armed Robbery to a Citizen was reported in the parking lot of **Mulligan's**, 2212 N. Main St. that also involved three similarly described suspects.

While checking the area, officers located three suspects: **Tommy L. Rosser Jr.**, **DeVonte T. Hill**, and **Jemel M. Johnson**. All three suspects were taken into custody following a brief foot chase. A fourth suspect, **Kalo D. Benjamin**, was taken into custody a short time later in the 3100 block of Alida St.



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Detectives from the Rockford Police Department conducted a follow up investigation into the three incidents and the results were reviewed by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office. As a result, each suspect was charged with two counts of **Armed Robbery** (for the Dollar Tree and Mulligan's incidents) and two counts of **Attempted Armed Robbery** (one for the incident to the business at Anna's pizza and a second for an incident involving a delivery driver in the parking lot). The suspects were lodged in the Winnebago County Jail where they are being held in lieu of bond.

ARRESTED:

Tommy L. Rosser Jr.	17-years-old	Rockford, IL
DeVonte T. Hill	18-years-old	Rockford, IL
Jemel M. Johnson	18-years-old	Rockford, IL
Kalo D. Benjamin	18-years-old	Rockford, IL

CHARGES:

Armed Robbery (two counts)

Attempted Armed Robbery (two counts)

Detectives are continuing to investigate the possibility that the same suspects are responsible for several similar robberies at businesses in the northwest part of the City. We are encouraging anybody with information on these incidents to contact the Rockford Police Department at (815)987-5824. Photos of the suspects are not available at this time due to the on going nature of the investigation.

The charges against Rosser, Hill, Johnson and Benjamin are merely accusations and not evidence of their guilt. As with defendants in all criminal cases they are considered innocent unless proven guilty in court.